

REMARKS

Claims 3-22, 25-27, and 29-30 are pending after the present amendments are entered. Claims 14-22 are allowed. Claims 1-2, 10, 13, 23-24, and 28-29 are rejected. Claims 3-9, 11-12, 25-27, and 30 are objected to.

Claims 3, 10-11, 13, 25-26, and 29-30 are amended herein. Claims 1-2, 23-24, and 28 are cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 3-22, 25-27, and 29-30 are respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Claims 14-22 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the allowed claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-9, 11-12, 25-27, and 30 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if re-written in independent form to include the limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 3 is re-written in independent form to include the limitations of base Claim 1, and is therefore now allowable over the cited references.

Claims 4-9 and 11-12 depend from Claim 3 and therefore distinguish over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 3.

Claim 25 is re-written in independent form to include the limitations of base Claim 23, and is therefore now allowable over the cited references.

Claim 26 is re-written in independent form to include the limitations of base Claim 23, and is therefore now allowable over the cited references.

Claim 27 depends from Claim 26 and therefore distinguishes over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 26.

Claim 30 is re-written in independent form to include the limitations of base Claim 28, and is therefore now allowable over the cited references.

Rejection of Claims under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which

applicant regards as the invention. In response thereto, Claim 10 is amended to correct a clerical error. As amended, Claim 10 depends from Claim 3, which provides proper antecedent basis for the "shunt" transistor. Note that this amendment is not narrowing and is not made for the purpose of patentability or avoiding the prior art.

Rejection of Claims under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-2, 13, 23-24, and 28-29 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,472,912 to Chiu et al.

Claims 1-2, 23-24, and 28 are cancelled, and thus their rejections are now moot.

Claim 13 is amended to depend from Claim 3, which as indicated above is allowable over the cited references. Therefore, Claim 13 distinguishes over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 3.

Claim 29 is amended to depend from Claim 30, which as indicated above is allowable over the cited references. Therefore, Claim 29 distinguishes over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 30.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, it is believed that Claims 3-22, 25-27, and 29-30 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next action is other than allowance as requested, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (408) 879-6149.

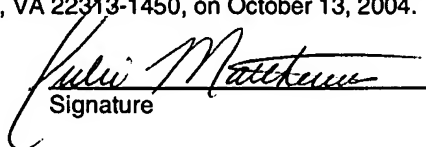
Respectfully submitted,



Kim Kanzaki
Patent Attorney
Reg. No. 37,652

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 13, 2004.

Julie Matthews
Name


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